## What is Claimed is:

July DI

10

- A rectification circuit comprising:
- a diode full-wave bridge rectifier;
- a freewheeling current path;

plocking means coupled between said rectifier and said freewheeling current path for causing freewheeling current of said bridge rectifier to substantially flow through said freewheeling current path.

- 2. A rectification circuit as recited in Claim 1, wherein said blocking means comprises a diode.
- 3. A rectification circuit as recited in Claim wherein said freewheeling current path comprises at least one freewheeling diode coupled substantially across said bridge rectifier.

20 4. A rectification circuit as recited in Claim 2, wherein said freewheeling current path comprises a plurality of freewheeling diodes coupled substantially in series across said bridge rectifier.

25 A rectification circuit as recited in Claim 7, further comprising at least one capacitor, each said capacitor coupled across a respective one of said freewheeling diodes.

5

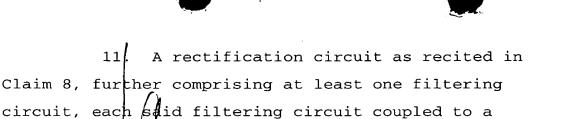
- A r ctification circuit as recited in Claim

  3, further comprising at least one filtering circuit,
  each said filtering circuit coupled to a respective one
  of said freewheeling diodes to limit the rate of rise of
  reverse voltage across said diodes.
  - 7. A rectification circuit comprising:
  - a diode full-wave bridge rectifier;
  - a freewheeling current path;
- a blocking diode coupled between said rectifier and said freewheeling current path to cause freewheeling current of said bridge rectifier to at least partially flow through said freewheeling current path.
- 8. A rectification circuit as recited in Claim wherein said freewheeling current path comprises at least one freewheeling diode coupled substantially across said bridge rectifier.
- 9. A rectification circuit as recited in Claim 7, wherein said freewheeling current path comprises a plurality of freewheeling diodes coupled substantially in series across said bridge rectifier.
- 25 10. A rectification circuit as recited in Claim 8, further comprising at least one capacitor, each said capacitor coupled across a respective one of said freewheeling diodes.

5

25

30



12. A rectification circuit comprising: an electrical load;

respective one of said freewheeling diodes to limit the

rates of rise of reverse voltage across said diodes.

a planality of first diodes coupled across a first node and a second node in a bridge rectifier configuration;

at least one second diode coupled between said first node and a third node; and

a third diode coupled between said second node and said third node.

13. A rectification circuit as recited in Claim 12, wherein said third diode is connected in order to:

allow current rectified by said first diodes to flow to said load; and

prevent at least some freewheeling current flowing through said load from flowing through said first diodes and instead cause said at least some freewheeling current to flow through said second diodes.

14. A rectification circuit as recited in Claim 13, further comprising at least one filtering circuit, each said filtering circuit coupled to a respective one of said second diodes to limit the rates of rise of reverse voltage across said second diodes.